

Working Group 7 Traffic and Safety

**Protocol of Stara Zagora Meeting
25 – 27 March 2009, Stara Zagora City Hall**

**Moderation: Georgi Simeonov and Reni Andonova
City of Stara Zagora**

26.03.2009

Welcome by the Mayor of Stara Zagora Prof. Svetlin Tanchev.

Key presentation:

Belcho Belchev, Deputy Mayor of Stara Zagora Municipality
Safe school environment in Stara Zagora, infrastructure .

The presentation started with some information about the city of Stara Zagora /history, statistics, data/. Then the problems related to the intensive traffic and high speeds near the schools were presented. The Deputy Mayor presented the local policy and infrastructural solutions to prevent and deal with those problems.

Questions and discussion.

Problems are similar to other cities.

In Stara Zagora there is a budget targeted to construction of facilities.

Police could not insure safety for all the schools. Therefore the most problematic schools are defined after an analysis of the road safety risk, usually where there are not traffic lights and location is in the central city area.

Milena Evtimova, teacher in the school of “Zheleznik”, Stara Zagora

The programme of the Ministry of Education for obligatory education in road safety in Bulgarian schools was presented. The teachers of road safety attend a specialized training in Sofia. She also presented the project “Myself and the others on the road”.

Questions and discussion

Foreign participants were interested in the program of learning road safety introduced by the Ministry of education. The questions were about the age of the groups, how many lessons are dedicated to the road safety, and does every school has a teacher.

Delyan Slavov , Head of Traffic Police in Stara Zagora.

The presentation consisted of statistical data and problems with the young drivers. Every sixth injured in an accident is a child. In 2008, 17% of the injured in road accidents are children, 28 % are pedestrians, most of them children. Therefore training programmes have started.

Questions and discussion.

How to organize campaigns for promotion of those training programmes - through media and the traffic policemen

Yonka Georgieva, PR and speaker of the Regional Police Department, Stara Zagora. Local Programmes and Initiatives with children and youngsters for prevention of road accidents were presented

Dian Dinev, member of Youth City Council agora
“ Safe school environment”, good practices from youth initiatives were presented

Jacqueline Peters, City of The Hague “Safe to school in the Hague”

Questions and discussion

How to motivate patrols near the schools. How to motivate parents to participate in the project.

It is parents' responsibility to guard their children, but some times they are irresponsible.

Iva Tomlijenovic, City of Rieka
„Urban Jungle” computer game was presented

Questions and discussion

The game is very interesting and useful. Discussion was about possibility to adapt it to other cities.

Michael Angelopoulos: Municipal organization of road safety
City of Athens' activities, practices and future plans were presented

Florian Gazdak, chief constable, Local Police Satu Mare, Romania
Good Practices of Satu Mare were presented.

27.03.2009r.

Visits to a lesson in a kindergarten
Visit to a practical exercise-competition in a school.

General Discussion

Summary

Forms of prevention and control for improvement of drivers discipline and involvement of parents

Facilitators: Youth Councils from Stara Zagora and Children's Policeman Academy

The discussion was held based on the following preliminary prepared questions and with the active involvement of the young people from the Youth Council of Stara Zagora

1. What do we want to change?
2. Who do we want to involve?
3. What change do we expect?
4. How to “get in touch” with the needs of the people who we want to involve?
5. What can we do to achieve the change?
6. Which indicators for evaluation of our activities success?

Some of the opinions:

Suggestion by Stara Zagora to have two messages: one for the children and one for the parents. There is a problem with some parents behaviour. This is not only the speed of driving but the behaviour model of parents in road safety. Negative and scaring have short-term effect. The message should be contained in showing a model of positive behaviour.

City of Rieka has established a programme to work with the parents consisting of a series of workshops and after them activities are organized together with the children. The Hague has a campaign „ Drive with your heart”

Youth Council of Stara Zagora has two target groups in this issue: children aged 7-18 years and young drivers aged 18-21

City of Athens has a programme involving children making suggestions about what they see as a problem for traffic safety. Then parents are invited to see what the children suggest.

Suggestion of the Police representative: To develop programmes of training for traffic safety in different atmospheric and climate conditions. What are the risks in case of snow, fog etc. and how to counteract.

Questions of Youth Council of StaraZagora about how to involve the institutions?

Suggestion of Rijeka: Networking.

Athens: In Greece schools are centrally governed and paid. Changes could occur through government.

Rijeka: In Croatia we communicate with students up to 13 years. The problem is to involve high-school students.

Youth Council of Stara Zagora explains in Bulgaria there are pedagogical advisers, who works with students but out of their school part. The students from schools which have pedagogical advisers are more organized and motivated.

Unfortunately it is not the case in Croatia.

Concluding suggestions

Two main directions for the next year work of the Working group:

- 1. To work with parents for accident prevention and for positive behaviour in traffic safety**
- 2. To work with the young drivers for safer driving**

Conclusion about indicators:

If for one year we have less accidents as a result of our joint efforts, then we could say we have a success.

Message: Spent one minute from your life to save one life.

CITY	NAME
Athens, Greece	Irene (Hera) Ralli-Valsamaki
Athens, Greece	Michael Anghelopoulos
Athens, Greece	Vassiliki Bellou - Nika
Athens, Greece	Vassiliki (Vassia) Trifylli
Rijeka, Croatia	Iva Tomljenovic
The Hague, Netherlands	Jacqueline Pieters
Satu Mare, Romania	Claudiu Florian Gazdac
Stara Zagora, Bulgaria	Ionka Georgieva
Stara Zagora, Bulgaria	Stanislav Stanilov
Stara Zagora, Bulgaria	Delyan Slavov
Stara Zagora, Bulgaria	Iskra Ivanova
Stara Zagora, Bulgaria	Milena Evtimova
Stara Zagora, Bulgaria	Rositza Zekova
Stara Zagora, Bulgaria	Donka Angelova
Stara Zagora, Bulgaria	Dian Dinev
Stara Zagora, Bulgaria	Galina Petkova
Stara Zagora, Bulgaria	Galina Strazneva

Stara Zagora, Bulgaria	Belcho Belchev
Stara Zagora, Bulgaria	Maria Todorova
Stara Zagora, Bulgaria	Geogri Simeonov
Stara Zagora, Bulgaria	Reni Andonova
Stara Zagora, Bulgaria	Violina Ivanova
Stara Zagora, Bulgaria	Miroslava Shopova
Stara Zagora, Bulgaria	Olga Zagorova
Stara Zagora, Bulgaria	Genko Kerezov
Stuttgart, Germany	Julia Droege